

Appln. No. 10/609,336
Amendment dated February 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed November 14, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An inserter for multiple surgical anchors, comprising first receiving means for receiving one of the surgical anchors, said first receiving means including a first cannulated sleeve which is sized and shaped so as to receive said one surgical anchor therein; first ejecting means for ejecting said one surgical anchor from said first receiving means, said first ejecting means including a first cannulated pin, said first cannulated sleeve being mounted on said first cannulated pin for reciprocating movement relative thereto; second receiving means for receiving another of the surgical anchors, said second receiving means including a second cannulated sleeve which is sized and shaped so as to receive said another surgical anchor therein; second ejecting means for ejecting said another surgical anchor from said second receiving means, said second ejecting means including a second cannulated pin, said second cannulated sleeve being mounted on said second cannulated pin for reciprocating movement relative thereto; and actuating means for simultaneously actuating said first and second ejecting means, whereby said one surgical anchor is ejected from said first receiving means while said another surgical anchor is being ejected from said second receiving means.

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2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An inserter according to Claim [[3]] 1, wherein said first cannulated sleeve is mounted on a free end of said first cannulated pin and wherein said second cannulated sleeve is mounted on a free end of said second cannulated pin.

5. (Currently Amended) An inserter according to Claim 4, wherein for multiple surgical anchors, comprising first receiving means for receiving one of the surgical anchors, said first receiving means including a first cannulated sleeve which is sized and shaped so as to receive said one surgical anchor therein; first ejecting means for ejecting said one surgical anchor from said first receiving means, said first ejecting means including a first cannulated pin, said first cannulated sleeve being mounted on a free end of said first cannulated pin for reciprocating movement relative thereto, said first cannulated sleeve is being movable between an extended position, in which said free end of said first cannulated pin is positioned within said first cannulated sleeve adjacent one end thereof, and a retracted position, in which said free end of said first cannulated pin extends outwardly from an opposite end of said first cannulated sleeve and wherein; second receiving means for receiving another of the surgical anchors, said second receiving means including a second cannulated sleeve which is sized and shaped so as to receive

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said another surgical anchor therein; second ejecting means for ejecting said another surgical anchor from said second receiving means, second ejecting means including a second cannulated pin, said second cannulated sleeve being mounted on a free end of said second cannulated pin for reciprocating movement relative thereto, said second cannulated sleeve is being movable between an extended position, in which said free end of said second cannulated cannulated pin is positioned within said second cannulated sleeve adjacent one end thereof, and a retracted position, in which said free end of said second cannulated pin extends outwardly from an opposite end of said second cannulated sleeve; and actuating means for simultaneously actuating said first and second ejecting means, whereby said one surgical anchor is ejected from said first receiving means while said another surgical anchor is being ejected from said second receiving means.

6. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 5, wherein said one surgical anchor is ejected from said first cannulated sleeve in response to the movement of said first cannulated sleeve from its said extended position to its said retracted position and wherein said another surgical anchor is ejected from said second cannulated sleeve in response to the movement of said second cannulated sleeve from its said extended position to its said retracted position.

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7. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 6, further comprising first urging means for urging said first cannulated sleeve into its said extended position and second urging for urging said second cannulated sleeve into its said extended position.

8. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 7, wherein said first urging means is a first spring and wherein said second urging means is a second spring.

9. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 8, further comprising a head, said first and second cannulated pins extending outwardly from one side of said head in a spaced parallel relationship to one another.

10. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 9, wherein said first spring is interposed between said one side of said head and said one end of said first cannulated sleeve and wherein said second spring is interposed between said one side of said head and said one end of said second cannulated sleeve.

11. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 10, wherein said first cannulated sleeve includes a first peg which extends radially thereinto and wherein said second cannulated sleeve includes a second peg which extends radially thereinto.

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12. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 11, wherein said first cannulated pin includes a first slot extending longitudinally therealong, said first slot being sized and shaped so as to slidably receive said first peg, and wherein said second cannulated pin includes a second slot extending longitudinally therealong, said second slot being sized and shaped so as to slidably receive said second peg.

13. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 12, wherein said first peg engages an end of said first slot when said first annulated sleeve is in its said extended position, thereby preventing said first spring from pushing said first cannulated sleeve off of said free end of said first cannulated pin, and wherein said second peg engages an end of said second slot when said second cannulated sleeve is in its said extended position, thereby preventing said second spring from pushing said second cannulated sleeve off of said free end of said second cannulated pin.

14. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 13, wherein said actuating means includes a manually grippable handle extending outwarding from an opposite side of said head.

15. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 14, wherein said handle, said head and said first and second cannulated pins are movable conjointly with each other.

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16. (Currently Amended) An inserter according to Claim 6, wherein said opposite end of said first ~~cannulated~~ cannulated sleeve has an inner diameter selected so as to create an interference fit with a sheath portion of said one surgical anchor and wherein said opposite end of said second cannulated sleeve has an inner diameter selected so as to create an interference fit with a sheath portion of said another surgical anchor.

17. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 16, wherein said one surgical anchor includes an expander portion, which is movable into said sheath portion of said one surgical anchor for the expansion thereof, and wherein said another surgical anchor includes an expander portion which is movable into said sheath portion of said another surgical anchor for the expansion thereof.

18. (Original) An inserter according to Claim 17, wherein said free end of said first cannulated pin is engageable with said expander portion of said one surgical anchor such that said free end of said first cannulated pin moves said expander portion of said one surgical anchor into said sheath portion of said one surgical anchor as said first cannulated sleeve moves towards its said retracted position, and wherein said free end of said second cannulated pin is engageable with said expander portion of said another surgical anchor such that said free end of said second cannulated pin moves said expander portion of said

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another surgical anchor into said sheath portion of said another surgical anchor as said second cannulated sleeve moves towards its said retracted position.